

WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT IDEAS 2026-2028
Jean Battaglia, Historian
8 Thrush Drive, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
Telephone: 732-238-4787 Email: battaglia@njsfwc.org

NJSFWC

- Become a member of the NJSFWC 1894 Society, remembering that in 1894 NJSFWC became the eighth Federation under the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Annual donations of \$18.94, \$189.40, \$1894.00 or any amount greater than \$18.94 are used to augment funding for the annual rent paid to Rutgers University. Contact the NJSFWC Headquarters Chairman for more information.
- Visit NJSFWC Headquarters in New Brunswick, NJ, our federation home built in 1965. Each club is encouraged to hold a meeting at no charge at Headquarters once a year. Contact the NJSFWC Executive Assistant at 732-249-5474 to arrange a date.
- Become a supporter of NJSFWC publications. For example, purchase a copy of *A Century of Challenge, New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs First 100 Years* and donate copies to your local library and have reference copies for your club. Publications can be purchased through Headquarters or at NJSFWC State and District Events.

GFWC

- The GFWC Women's History and Research Center (WHRC), founded in 1984, contains an archival collection of records of GFWC since 1890. The archives contain GFWC International Presidents papers, photographs, and program records, as examples. To access the archives, see gfwc.org/what-we-do/whrc and click on the online catalog.
- Become a member of the GFWC 1734 Society, which maintains the GFWC Headquarters, a National Historic Landmark. Annual donations of \$17.34, \$173.40, \$1734.00 or any greater amount are used for the upkeep, maintenance and preservation of the building and entitle the donor to specific levels of membership. Donations should be sent to GFWC Headquarters, 1734 N Street NW Washington, D.C. 20036-2990, earmarked 1734 Society.
- Visit GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C., a National Historic Landmark. Every member is welcome to visit and tour "our home." Tours are normally available M-F, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and can be scheduled using the Tour Request Form found at gfwc.org/visit-us.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

- Document and record your club's present-day activities through press releases, social media, scrapbooks and photographs.
- Identify and preserve the history of your club by collecting your archival records, finding a local repository and allowing your records to be made available for research. Your local library or historical society building or museum might be considered.
- Interview club members to record histories of club/community work in the past. Examples might include interviewing a woman who has been a club member for the longest time, a member who was particularly active in certain projects benefiting the community or a member who was a pioneer (i.e., started local Historical Society, spearheaded an environmental effort, established a Domestic Violence shelter, served as first woman on Board of Education, town mayor, and/or Borough Council member.) Or pick a milestone, such as being a 5-year, 10-year or longer member and use a few minutes at a meeting to ask those members why they joined, what they have enjoyed the most about being a club woman, etc. Share the stories in club newsletters.

- Research the history of local public buildings, such as libraries or schools, studying architecture, funding, and renovations. Arrange for a club tour or invite a speaker for a club meeting.

WOMEN HAVE A STORY

- Nominate prominent women to the National Women's Hall of Fame. For \$250, an extraordinary woman can be honored in the National Women's Hall of Fame online **Book of Lives and Legacies**. Each woman honored is given a page in the book. A one to three-page letter, including pictures, is submitted citing accomplishments. This will be a permanent, enduring electronic record, also available for all to view at the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca, NY. A commemorative plaque will be sent to the recipient, as well as a gift of one year's-membership in the Hall of Fame. Application procedures are available online at www.greatwomen.org. Arrange for a group visit to the Hall of Fame on the website.
- Research the lives and accomplishments of community or state women who work to preserve and promote history – teachers, authors, museum curators, historical society officers. Nominate one as a Woman of Achievement. Hold an event at a local venue, recognizing their roles and inviting short presentations. Share the stories and the event with press releases.
- Celebrate National Women's History Month (March). Contact the National Women's History Alliance for project ideas and materials online at www.nwhp.org

PRESERVE AWARENESS

- Visit and/or donate towards the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial in Occoquan Regional Park at 9751 Ox Road, Lorton, VA 22079. Email: www.turningpointsuffragistmemorial.org for information.
- Visit Jane Cunningham Crowley's gravesite, located at the Evergreen Cemetery, Route 9, Lakewood, NJ.

Review the 2026-2028 GFWC Club Manual Women's History and Resource Center section for additional project ideas and resources.